

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/913,868

Applicant(s)

ZHANG ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory R. Del Cotto

Art Unit

1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 2/3/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-5, 7, 9-18, 21 renumbered 1-16.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

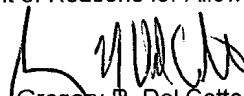
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/19/2004.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Gregory R. Del Cotto
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 3, 2004, has been entered.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Laura Grunzinger on February 18, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

The Specification:

In the first paragraph on page 1, after "February 16, 2000," insert – claims priority under 35 USC 119(e) to --.

The Claims:

In claim 1, line 9, after "acids" insert – selected from the group consisting of lysine, ornithine, arginine, and tryptophan --.

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In claim 1, line 25, delete "one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of".

In claim 1, line 29, after "compounds;" insert – and --.

In claim 18, line 10, delete "one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of".

The Abstract:

As the last page of the specification, insert the following Abstract on a separate sheet of paper:

Abstract of the Disclosure

The fabric care compositions comprising A) from 0.1% to 10% by weight amino acid based polymers which are alkoxyated with an average of 0.1 to 30 alkyleneoxy units; B) from 1% to 80% by weight, of a fabric softening active; and C) the balance carriers and adjunct ingredients wherein said compositions provide colored fabric with protection against the deleterious effects of mechanical wear and exposure to laundry-added ingredients inter alia bleaching materials or water-borne materials inter alia heavy metal ions.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Note that, Applicant's amendments, Applicant's arguments, and the Examiner's Amendment are sufficient to place the instant claims in condition for allowance. Note that, the Declaration filed under 37 CFR 1.131 is moot since the claims, as amended, are sufficient to overcome the rejection(s) previously established.

Of the references of record, the most pertinent is WO 98/12296. '296 teaches a compositions comprising dye fixing agent and a specific amino-functional polymer, said composition providing an improved color care on fabrics upon laundry treatments.

However, '296 does not specifically teach or suggest the specific amino acid polymer material as recited by the instant claims.

None of the references of record, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a composition containing an amino acid polymeric material, a fabric softening agent, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims. Accordingly, since the prior art fails to teach or suggest such a composition as recited by the instant claims, the instant claims are deemed allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory R. Del Cotto whose telephone number is (571)

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272-1312. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on (571) 272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gregory R. Del Cotto
Primary Examiner
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GRD
February 19, 2004